

Appl. No. 09/466,996
Amdt. Dated July 1, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 1, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 16-18, 20, 27, 33-34, 37, 41 and 44 were allowed while claims 9-11 and 38 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have placed claims 9 and 38 into independent form, where these claims have not been narrowed. Claim 8 has been amended to now depend on claim 9 and claim 21 has been amended to now depend on allowed claim 20. As a result, claim 8-11, 16-18, 20-23, 27, 33-34, 37-38, 41 and 44 are in condition for allowance.

Herein, claims 1-7, 12-15, 19, 24-26, 28-32, 35-36, 39-40 and 42-43 have been cancelled without prejudice. Hence, the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) are moot. Withdrawal of these §102(e) and §103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 1, 2004

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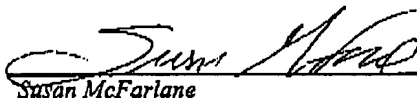
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Date: July 1, 2004


Susan McFarlane
Date: July 1, 2004